UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

PROVISIONAL

E/1994/SR.35
12 December 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Substantive session of 1994

PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 35th MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Monday, 18 July 1994, at 10 a.m.

President : Mr. BUTLER (Australia)

later: Mr. BOTEZ (Romania)
(Vice-President)

CONTENTS

An agenda for development (continued)

Economic and environmental questions: Reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions

(b) Cooperation in fisheries in Africa

(f) Natural resources

(g) Energy

(i) Statistics

(k) International cooperation to mitigate the environmental consequences on Kuwait and other countries in the region resulting from the situation between Iraq and Kuwait

(m) Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States

Corrections to this record should be submitted in one of the working languages. They should be set forth in a memorandum and also incorporated in a copy of the record. They should be sent within one week of the date of this document to the Chief, Official Records Editing Section, Office of Conference Services, room DC2-794, 2 United Nations Plaza.

The meeting was called to order at 10.25 a.m.

AN AGENDA FOR DEVELOPMENT (continued)

Presidential summary of the high-level segment (E/1994/109)

The PRESIDENT read out the text of his summary and conclusions on the high-level segment as contained in document E/1994/109.

Ms. WILLIAMS (United States of America) said that, in the light of the reference to agreed official development assistance targets in the document, her Government felt that it was important to clarify its position on the matter. The United States was not among those countries that had affirmed an official development assistance target, since such a target would detract from the more important issues of effectiveness and quality of aid and the policies in the recipient country. With respect to chapter 33, paragraph 33.13 of Agenda 21, the United States was among those countries which, in line with their support for reform efforts in developing countries, had agreed to make their best efforts to increase their level of official development assistance. The United States had traditionally been among the largest-volume donors and would continue to provide high-quality aid on a case-by-case basis, in a way that encouraged reform efforts in developing countries.

Mr. KUDRYAVTSEV (Russian Federation) said that, for the most part, the President had succeeded in his difficult task of reflecting the diversity of view expressed during the high-level segment. His delegation would however, have welcomed more emphasis on the emergence of transition economies. Those economies represented a new element in the world economic system, but they had been referred to only at the end of the section on the state of affairs, and that reference had not been followed up in the section on priorities. Among the priorities, external factors such as trade, debt, commodity prices, transfer of technology and financial flows were mentioned as having critical importance to developing countries, but many of those factors, especially trade and access to world markets, were important to economies in transition as well.

The fundamental importance of sustainable development should be given more attention, particularly in the section on priorities. The ecological aspects of the right to development should also be stressed.

Mr. RUGE (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that, while other points could undoubtedly be raised in connection with the President's summary, the European Union was awaiting further discussion on the agenda for development in the General Assembly and the proposals of the Secretary-General.

Mr. HUDYMA (Ukraine) said that his delegation supported the comments of the Russian Federation. It felt that the final document had presented a one-sided picture and should be more balanced.

Mr. CUI Tiankai (China) said that, in drafting the summary, the President had relied on wide consultations, although some points might require further consideration. For instance, the penultimate paragraph of page 3 in the English version mentioned the need to recognize the diversity of the developing world and to strengthen differentiated and comprehensive approaches. His delegation felt that the implications of such differentiation among developing countries should be considered. It understood, however, that the President's summary was not a consensus text, and therefore it would make no recommendations for revision.

Mr. HADID (Observer for Algeria), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77, said that, although not all of the Group's points were reflected in the summary, it understood that the President had made a serious and commendable effort to express the diversity of views in a balanced manner. The Group of 77 gave general support to the document in a spirit of consensus.

Mr. CABELLO (Paraguay) said that the first step in strengthening the existing institutions must be to improve the system of development administration by creating one that was truly a United Nations system. Within the Secretariat, an Under-Secretary-General should be appointed to administer the entire technical-cooperation system, putting an end to the separate management of technical cooperation by UNDP and thus avoiding its separatist tendencies, which were detrimental to the effort as a whole. UNDP should be the spokesman for the United Nations programme of cooperation with the recipient countries. Through its extensive field network, it should be supervising project execution in conjunction with the specialized agencies.

Financing for development programmes and projects should be obligatory and proportionate, like the assessments for support to the regular budget. The

(Mr. Cabello, Paraguay)

geographical distribution of technical-cooperation funds should be more equitable. Such funds could be supplemented by means of contributions from the specialized agencies. Closer supervision of project execution and results was needed in order to avoid wasting funds on projects that did not produce results.

A number of points should be added to the discussion of the Agenda for Development. The major problems that could be solved through technical cooperation should be identified and priorities in development policy established both in global terms and for specific regions and countries. When those priorities had been established, decisions should be made on what action should be taken, who should execute it and where the financing would be found. In organizational terms, the machinery needed to advance the execution of those priorities should be examined. One of the basic obstacles to effective technical cooperation was the lack of coordination, both at Headquarters and in specific countries. In determining an agenda for development, a number of questions must be answered with regard to the role the United Nations should play in development, the role of the international financial institutions, and how the growing number of non-governmental organizations could be included. The situation regarding economic development policy, both in general terms and for specific regions or countries must be clarified. More discussion was needed with regard to the creation of a specific agency within the United Nations system to deal directly with human development.

Mr. EL MOAKAF (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) commended the President for his brief but comprehensive summary of the views expressed by members of the Council. His delegation had hoped that the President would also address the problems faced by countries against which economic sanctions had been imposed and that he would appeal to the international community to lift those mandatory sanctions in order to allow those countries to promote their economic development.

Mr. CAMARA (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that the President's summary would provide a useful document for the Economic and Social Council in its follow-up work on agenda for development. He noted that during the high-level segment, the Director-General of FAO had discussed food security and the crucial problem of food production in Africa. His organization

(Mr. Camara)

regretted that the President's summary had not reflected the proposals made by the Director-General of FAO during the high-level segment. He suggested that a reference to the problem of nutrition and food security should be added to the summary, specifically in the paragraph of the section on priorities which read, in part: "action programmes must give appropriate priority to the education, health and welfare of people". He also inquired as to whether the recommendations referred to in the penultimate paragraph of the section on priorities would be addressed to the specialized agencies as well as to United Nations bodies. FAO believed that it was appropriate for the General Assembly to address recommendations direct to the specialized agencies.

Mr. YEGOROV (Belarus) agreed with previous speakers that the problems of countries with economies in transition had not been adequately addressed in the President's summary and conclusions. That document would be submitted for review by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session, at which time it would be possible to discuss the conclusions and priorities in greater detail. While development issues were universal, his delegation believed that a more explicit reference to the specific problems of countries with economies in transition should be included in a document summarizing the report of the Secretary-General on an agenda for development.

Mr. ATABEKOV (Observer for Kyrgyzstan) said his delegation agreed with previous speakers that a summary which was to lay the foundations for the future activities of the Economic and Social Council regarding an agenda for development should also address the problems of countries with economies in transition.

The PRESIDENT said that all of the delegates' views would be reflected in the summary record of the meeting for future consideration. When compiling his summary, he had attempted to reflect, in a balanced way, the debate which had taken place in the Council during the high-level segment on the theme of agenda for development. In that regard, he wished to emphasize the universality of the fundamental points made throughout the text regarding the state of affairs in the global economy. The priorities for action applied to all States, whether they were developed, developing or in transition. The views of those delegations which had

(The President)

found the text inadequate with regard to the particular problems of economies in transition would be reflected in the record for future action.

Further action on an agenda for development would take place not in the Council but in the General Assembly. While it was vital that the views of the Council should be expressed and recorded, the making of action-related recommendations for review by the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session was a taste for the Secretary-General in his follow-up to agenda for development. The views of the Council set forth in the President's summary would constitute a constructive contribution to the follow-up and further action for the implementation of an agenda for development by the General Assembly.

Mr. Botez (Romania), Vice-President, took the Chair.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduction of draft resolution E/1994/L.17

Mr. CHLOVSKI (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) introduced draft resolution E/1994/L.17 entitled, "Right of access of land-locked States to and from the sea and freedom of transit". The draft resolution recalled several relevant General Assembly resolutions and two international conventions relating to the particular needs and problems of land-locked developing countries and included the request that all Member States should abstain from any actions that infringed on the rights of land-locked States and reverse any decisions that might have been made in violation of that right. The purpose of the resolution was to exert a positive influence on trade and development in the Balkans, ant that could be achieved if all States of that region respected the right of access of land-locked States to and from the sea and the freedom of transit through the territory of those States.

(b) COOPERATION IN FISHERIES IN AFRICA (E/1994/79);

(f) NATURAL RESOURCES (E/1994/26);

(g) ENERGY (E/1994/24 and Corr.2; E/1994/75; E/1994/NGO/5);

(i) STATISTICS (E/1994/29);

(k) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO MITIGATE THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES ON KUWAIT AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION RESULTING FROM THE SITUATION BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT (A/49/207-E/1994/92);

(m) CHARTER OF ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES (A/49/179-E/1994/82)

The PRESIDENT introduced the second cluster of sub-items under agenda item 6.

Mr. OSSA (Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis) introduced the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, contained in document A/49/179-E/1994/82. The report discussed how recent developments had affected the implementation of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States. The main purpose of the Charter was to codify some of the basic principles guiding international economic relations. While the need for generally acceptable principles as a solid basis on which to build an increasingly interdependent world economy was undisputed, there continued to be some divergences about specific provisions of the Charter. It was generally recognized that international economic relations should take account of new paradigms and trends in international cooperation for development. New approaches reflected greater emphasis on sound national economic policies and structural adjustments, the role of market forces, the focus on human-resources development and the eradication of poverty, the imperative of ecologically sustainable development and the need for social integration and justice.

The report mentioned the positive developments related to the elimination of colonialism, apartheid and racial discrimination. While those developments demonstrated that progress had been achieved with regard to the implementation of several provisions of the Charter, certain aspects of the Charter required further consideration in order to accommodate differences of approach. The new paradigms of international cooperation for development would have to be translated into operative arrangements leading to tangible results. Further review and assessment of the main features of the international economic system could include improvement and adaptation of the instrumentality of the Charter as an important element of that process.

Mr. CONSTANTINOU (Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development) said that the report on energy exploration and development trends in developing countries (E/1994/75) updated previous analyses of trends in energy consumption and production and focused on problems and issues over the next two decades in the light of evolving political, environmental and technological changes. Important changes in the structure of energy industries had been accelerated by privatization, downsizing and the application of modern technologies.

In 1970, world energy consumption had totalled 4.5 billion tons of oil equivalent (toe). By 1991, it had increased to 7.6 billion toe, and by the year 2020 that total might increase to 13.8 billion toe. The projected growth in energy consumption was based on the assumption that energy-efficiency efforts would continue and even improve in the years ahead. Fossil fuels accounted for more than 90 per cent of world energy consumption, giving rise to environmental concerns at the national, regional and global levels. Carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels were expected to double by the year 2020, and large increases were expected in nitrogen compounds and sulphur emissions. Most of the future growth in the consumption of fossil fuels was expected to occur in the developing world, whose share of world consumption was projected to increase from the current figure of 26 per cent to 48 per cent by the year 2020.

Much of the developing world continued to depend on traditional sources of energy. Energy scarcities were widespread. On the eve of the twenty-first century, 2.5 billion people in developing countries had little or no access to commercial energy supplies, including electricity. Paradoxically, as more energy was consumed, more energy reserves were discovered. The limits-of-growth phobia had been replace by a state of abundance and oversupply, with obvious consequences for primary-commodity prices.

The price of crude oil had not greatly increased because new oil and gas technologies had made it possible to tap vast petroleum reserves in deserts, jungles, the Arctic and offshore areas. Furthermore, the widespread adoption of free-market policies in the countries of the former Soviet Union, in China and in developing countries had opened up new areas with considerable oil and gas potential. As a result, adequate fossil-fuel reserves were assured for many years to come. At current rates of consumption, oil reserves would be adequate for a minimum of

75 years, natural-gas reserves for over 100 years and coal reserves for over 200 years.

Vast amounts of capital would have to be invested in new energy facilities, since energy projects were both capital-intensive and long-term. Similarly, heavy capital investment would be required to maintain production capacities and reduce the adverse environmental effects of energy projects. In the oil an gas sector, not much difficulty was anticipated in meeting capital requirements because of the magnitude of profitabilities, widespread direct investment by transnational oil corporations, increased privatization of national oil and gas corporations and a growing willingness on the part of export-credit guarantee institutions in developed market economies to facilitate the financing of public-sector oil and gas enterprises in developing countries. Nevertheless, fundamental changes were occurring in policy orientations in those strategic industries, and difficulties would arise unless there was greater cooperation among the main participants. Some progress had been made in the electricity sector through privatization, direct foreign investment and export-import guarantee mechanisms, but deregulation and the opening up of electricity markets would be necessary in many developing countries.

Much of the increase in commercial energy consumption in the oil-importing developing countries during the past two decades had been in the field of oil and natural gas. Oil remained the main energy import items, with annual foreign-exchange outlays estimated at $44 Billion. Since 1991, indigenous oil production in 17 oil-importing developing countries had declined, while consumption had been increasing. Nevertheless, many experts believed that those countries had potential resources. The international community therefore should assist those countries in their efforts to explore and develop their indigenous energy resources, which would be necessary for their economic growth.

Mr. GERJES (United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)) introduced the report on international cooperation to mitigate the environmental consequences on Kuwait and other countries in the region resulting from the situation between Iraq and Kuwait (E/1994/92). The United Nations agencies led by UNEP in cooperation with the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) had developed the United Nations Inter-agency Plan of Action soon after the liberation of Kuwait. The report under consideration summarized the results of the assessment of the environmental damage to the region in the aftermath of the conflict. In

(Mr. Gerjes)

addition, a research cruise had carried out an assessment of the impact on the marine environment in the Persian Gulf, and the World Meteorological Organization had evaluated the impact produced on the atmosphere by the oil fires, which had lasted approximately nine months.

The United Nations effort had also helped the Governments of the region to consider rehabilitating their own environment. In that context, UNEP had prepared a Consolidated Rehabilitation Programme for the environment of the ROPME region and a priority action programme. The Rehabilitation Programme contained costed project proposals covering the three environmental components which amounted to $1.2 billion. The priority action programme was costed at $50 million and earmarked for research and rehabilitation of the marine and terrestrial environment, particularly the Kuwaiti desert. UNEP had also submitted specific proposals to mobilize financial resources through the Governments of the region in order to initiate those activities. In June 1994, UNEP had met with non-governmental organizations in the sphere of oil and petroleum production in order to raise funds to draw up a strategy for studying the long-term effects of oil contamination on the marine environment. An agreement to devise such a strategy and provide financial resources to help the Governments of the region assess the long-term environmental damage had been reached.

Mr. CAMARA (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)) said that the report on cooperation in fisheries in Africa (E/1994/79) focused mainly on the support provided by FAO for the major activities undertaken in cooperation with the Ministerial Conference on Cooperation in Fisheries among the African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean. The Convention establishing the Conference had been signed by 10 States and ratified by two, while two other States had deposited their instruments of accession with the Director-General of FAO. The Convention would enter into force with the deposit of the seventh instrument of accession or ratification. The third session of the Ministerial Conference was scheduled to be held in November 1994. FAO would report on the outcome of that session to the Council at its 1995 substantive session.

Mrs. ALAWADI (Kuwait) said that the environment had been a major victim of the war between Iraq and Kuwait. Her country had requested ROPME to take action to deal with two Iraqi oil tankers that had sunk in the region and were polluting the water. Kuwait had asked ROPME to study the position of the tankers and carry out a

(Mrs. Alawadi, Kuwait)

survey of all sunken vessels in Iraqi territorial waters. Reports had underscored the gravity of the situation in the area affected. Experts had also pointed out the critical position of a large Iraqi oil tanker with a capacity of 260,000 tons of heavy Iraqi crude oil that had sunk in Mina al-Bakr. There was a danger that the tanker might break up and cause a huge environmental disaster in the area. Kuwait would be one of the States most severely affected if that happened. In addition, the environmental impact of the draining of the marshlands in southern Iraq should be determined, since that area was very vulnerable environmentally and was of great ecological importance.

In view of the deterioration of the environment as a result of the sunken vessels, Kuwait called upon the Council to recommend that the reports of the experts concerning those vessels should be considered and action taken to assess the impact on the marine environment and consider ways to empty the vessels so as to prevent further environmental damage; that the relevant United Nations agencies should be urged to do their share in coping with the deteriorating environmental situation by providing financial and technical support; that donor countries should be encouraged to contributed to UNEP, earmarking a large percentage of their donations for rehabilitation of the marine environmental; and that the World Bank should be asked to reconsider the needs of the coastal States in obtaining the necessary help from the Global Environment Facility.

Mr. AMAZIANE (Observer for Morocco) expressed regret that the third session of the Ministerial Conference on Cooperation in Fisheries among the African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean had been postponed to November 1994. The member countries of the Conference intended to submit to the Council a draft decision taking note of the report of the Director-General of FAO (E/1994/79), requesting the Secretary-General to submit to the Council at its 1995 substantive session the report of the Director-General of FAO on the activities of the third session of the Ministerial Conference, and calling for the inclusion of a sub-item entitled "Cooperation in fisheries in Africa" in the agenda of the Council's 1995 substantive session.

Mr. RUNGE (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, stressed that the work of the Committee on Natural Resources must be relevant to the work of other intergovernmental bodies dealing with related issues, such as the Commission on

(Mr. Runge, Germany)

Sustainable Development. In 1993, the European Union had urged the Committee to be more focused, and some further guidance might be necessary in that regard. He therefore suggested holding informal consultations in order to assess the progress achieved since 1993.

Mr. SPRING (Australia) said that his delegation supported United Nations efforts to accelerate the exploration and development of energy resources in developing countries. Ensuring an adequate flow of resources in support of energy development was fundamental to the overall economic development of those countries. Informal consultations might be necessary in order to clarify some minor aspects of the otherwise very valuable report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development (E/1994/25).

Ms. WILLIAMS (United States of America) said that her delegation, too, wished to request more time to consider some of the specific recommendations contained in the report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development. She proposed deferring a decision on the question until informal consultations could be held.

Mr. AL-HABIB (Observer for the Islamic Republic of Iran) pointed out that the Persian Gulf was referred to as "the Gulf" in paragraphs 35, 37 and 38 of the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation to mitigate the environmental consequences on Kuwait and other countries in the region resulting from the situation between Iraq and Kuwait (A/49/207). In accordance with circular ST/CS/CR.A/29 and Add.1 and with the practice of the thirty-fourth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC), a corrigendum should be issued.

Mr. MONGBE (Benin) said that his delegation welcomed the note by the Secretary-General on cooperation in fisheries in Africa (E/1994/79). Like the Moroccan delegation, it however was concerned about the postponement, mentioned in paragraph 3, of the third session of the Ministerial Conference on Cooperation in Fisheries among the African States Bordering the Atlantic Ocean. His delegation and others would submit a draft decision in that connection. While the report of the Committee on Natural Resources (E/1994/26) represented a tremendous improvement over the 1993 report, parts of it were still inadequate. A decision should be deferred until informal consultations could be held.

/...

Mr. RUNGE (Germany), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that the European Union welcomed the report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development (E/1994/25) and, in general, supported the draft resolution submitted by that Committee and its focus on chapter 9 of Agenda 21. In paragraph 7 (b) of the draft resolution, it would have been preferable to use language on technology transfer recently agreed on in other forms and instruments, in particular Agenda 21. The European Union hoped that future resolutions of subsidiary bodies of the Council would use language agreed and would consider who was being asked to take action and whether the recommendations were feasible. In paragraphs 2, 4 and 5 of the draft resolution submitted by the Committee, it was not clear to whom the recommendations were addressed. In paragraph 8, the recommendations on action to be taken by the Secretary-General were so broad as to be of questionable feasibility.

The European Union appreciated the Committee's efforts to coordinate its programme of work with that of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Certain aspects of its work were also related to the Conference of the Parties to the Framework Convention on Climate Change, whose first session would be held at Berlin. The Committee's proposal to held a session in February/March 1995 was acceptable, provided that the session could be financed from existing resources and was recognized as an exception - not a permanent change - in the biennialized calendar of meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Council. The European Union agreed with the recommendation contained in paragraph 8 on strengthening the coordination of energy activities within the United Nations system. In that connection, it urged the different specialized agencies which conducted energy activities to participate in the sessions of the Committee. Perhaps the Secretary-General could select one agency to act as task manager for coordination in the field of energy, along the lines of the task-manager mechanism used by the Commission on Sustainable Development. Coordination efforts already under way in the United Nations Secretariat should be strengthened. In that connection, he stressed the role of the Inter-agency Committee on Sustainable Development (IACSD), which was responsible for the coordination of the activities of the Commission on Sustainable Development.

Mr. BELHIMEUR (Algeria) commended the Committee on Natural Resources on its report and expressed his delegation's agreement with the analysis contained in the Summary by the Chairman. Expressing alarm that 30 per cent of the world's population had no access to drinking water, he said that his delegation endorsed the Committee's

(Mr. Belhimeur, Algeria)

appeal to Governments to assign priority to the establishment of a dynamic, interactive and integrated approach to water resources and soil management. In that connection, he stressed the urgency of implementing the relevant provisions of Agenda 21. He also drew attention to the need to ensure that developing countries had the necessary assistance to exploit their natural resources in the context of sustainable development. His delegation supported the adoption of all six draft resolutions brought to the attention of the Council, in particular draft resolution III. Concerned that the replacement of traditional materials by high-technology substitutes would decrease the demand for the export goods of developing countries, his delegation supported, in particular, the request to the Secretary-General to prepare a study on the long-term effects of the more efficient use of mineral products, their recycling and their replacement by high-technology substitutes.

Mr. KISELEV (Russian Federation) stressed that energy-related issues were the province of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development and should be considered by the Committee on Natural Resources only in relation to the extraction, processing and utilization of mineral and non-mineral resources and to the privatization of the mining industry. The Committee could take up those questions at its third session in the context of coordinating sustainable-development efforts within the United Nations system. It should also discuss the utilization of environmentally sound technologies in mining. His delegation welcomed the Committee's focus on the utilization of the by-products of the mining industry and on the importance of foreign capital in that initiative. The Committee could play a vital role in ensuring the harmonization of decisions.

The report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development was to be commended. The Committee must seek to strengthen coordination in the field of energy. In that connection, it should consider formulating a unified programme of action on energy conservation, which would include the participation of other organizations of the United Nations system and the relevant non-governmental organization. That would enhance its coordinating role in the field of science and technology. Its coordinating role in the area of sustainable development could be strengthened by the periodic preparation of an

(Mr. Kiselev, Russian Federation)

analytical survey of policy in the area of science and technology which focused on energy-related and environmental issues.

Mr. BIVERO (Venezuela) said that, while his delegation attached great importance to the recommendations of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, there was a huge gap between the technical recommendations of experts and a commitment by the international community. His Government did not entirely agree with the Committee's working hypotheses or with the points stressed in some of its recommendations. The Council should consider whether it would be wise to adopt recommendations which would affect the energy policies of Member States without first gauging their viability or political acceptability in developing, developed, energy-producing and energy-consuming countries, or considering other intergovernmental processes taking place in the United Nations. Perhaps further consultations were needed.

Mr. DOUJAK (Observer for Austria) said that the report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development was encouraging in a context of renewed awareness of energy-related issues following the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the adoption of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and of Agenda 21. His delegation welcomed the proposal to hold a session of the Committee in February/March 1995 in order to prepare for the consideration of energy for rural development (chap. 14 of Agenda 21) at the next session of the Commission on Sustainable Development. The Council must seek to enhance interaction between the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development and the Commission on Sustainable Development. His delegation also welcomed the Committee's proposal to hold further consultations on improving coordination in the field of energy and would be pleased to participate in them.

Mr. LOZANO (Mexico) said that his delegation, too, wished to defer action on the very broad proposals contained in the report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development until further consultations could be held.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.